

# West Gulf Coastal Plain Prescribed Burning Initiative



Prescribed burning financial and technical assistance is available to forest landowners whose property lies in the West Gulf Coastal Plain ecoregion of Louisiana. Prescribed burning is an important tool for managing pine and mixed pine-hardwood forests in this region. These fire-adapted forests provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and a decline in the use of prescribed burning has led to the decline in many species of birds and other animals that

are dependent on the habitat that periodic burning provides. In addition to the benefits to wildlife, prescribed burning helps improve forest health and is one of the best tools for reducing the hazard from wild fires.



## LANDOWNER BENEFITS

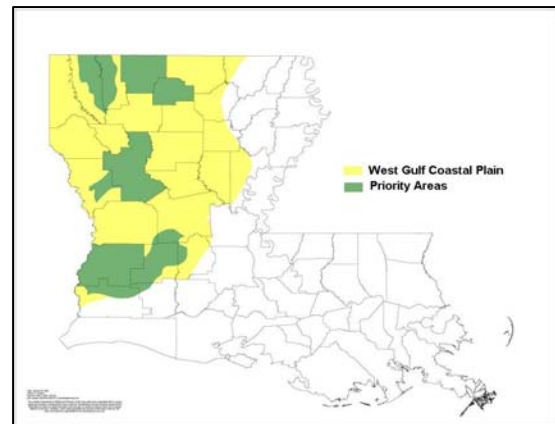
Property accepted into this program will have one prescribed burn conducted without charge to the landowner. A burn and management plan will be developed by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists. Louisiana Department of Agriculture, Office of Forestry personnel will construct fire breaks and conduct the burn. A single prescribed burn will not yield long-term benefits, so follow-up burns will be needed. LDWF and USFWS biologists will assist landowners apply for programs that may provide financial assistance for future burns.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any forestland that lies within the WGCP of Louisiana is eligible. However, land currently enrolled in USDA cost-share or rental programs such as CRP, is not eligible.

## RANKING PROCESS

Applications will be ranked by location, forest composition, forest structure, tract size and proximity to other land that is regularly burned. Certain areas of the WGCP have been identified as priority areas and land within or bordering these priority areas will have the best chance of being accepted. However, not all land within the priority areas will be accepted, and land outside a priority area may be accepted over land in a priority area if other attributes are more suitable.



## HOW TO APPLY

Interested landowners should contact LDWF or USFWS private land biologists for information or application materials. Once an application is submitted, the landowner will be contacted by a biologist who will arrange a visit to the property to complete the ranking form and gather information for a management plan. Contact one of these LDWF or USFWS offices for more information:

### Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Alexandria - 318/487-5885  
Minden - 318/371-3050  
Monroe - 318/343-4045  
Ferriday - 318/757-4571  
Lake Charles - 337/491-2575

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tensas NWR - 318/574-2664  
Lafayette - 337/291-3100  
Bayou Cocodrie NWR - 318/336-7119  
D'Arbonne NWR - 318/726-4222